

Record

JOURNAL OF THE MISSISSIPPI BAPTIST CONVENTION

Proposed 2007 Cooperative Program Budget

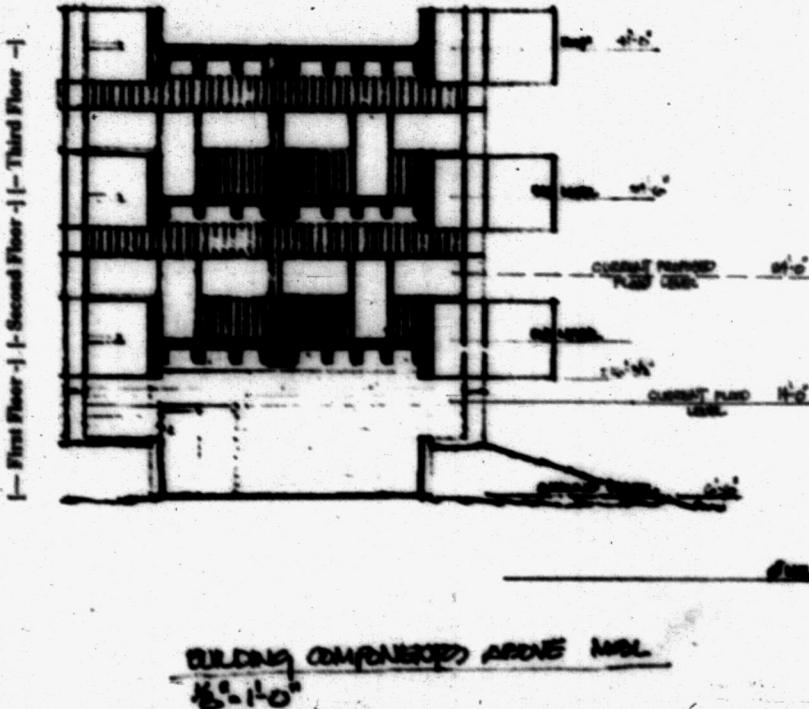
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**MISSISSIPPI
BAPTISTS**


FEMA SURGE LEVEL — An architectural rendering illustrates the point on the Gulfshore Assembly main building where the proposed FEMA storm surge level of 24 feet would be drawn, rendering unusable the first and second floors of Mississippi Baptists' beachside building complex located just outside the city limits of Pass Christian.

	2006 Budget	2007 Budget	% of Total	\$ INCR/DECR	% Incr/Decr
Southern Baptist Convention					
Southern Baptist Convention Budget Formula:					
GuideStone	84,549	89,610	0.27%	5,061	5.99%
Ethics & Religious Liberty Commission	162,835	172,582	0.52%	9,747	5.99%
International Mission Board	5,480,036	5,808,064	17.50%	328,028	5.99%
North American Mission Board	2,498,896	2,648,477	7.98%	149,581	5.99%
SBC Operating	363,248	384,992	1.16%	21,744	5.99%
SBC Seminaries	2,370,507	2,512,402	7.57%	141,895	5.99%
Total	10,960,071	11,616,127	35.00%	656,056	5.99%
Shared Responsibilities - MBC Matching Portion					
Church Annuity	945,684	984,000	2.97%	38,316	4.05%
Total	945,684	984,000	2.97%	38,316	4.05%
Mississippi Institutions and Agencies					
Baptist Children's Village	549,218	623,158	1.88%	73,940	13.46%
Board of Ministerial Education	380,444	380,444	1.15%	0	0.00%
Christian Action Commission	328,259	353,035	1.06%	24,776	7.55%
Christian Education	5,327,287	5,646,391	17.01%	319,104	5.99%
Christian Education Capital Needs	676,211	716,716	2.16%	40,505	5.99%
Historical Commission	61,108	67,478	0.20%	6,370	10.42%
Mississippi Baptist Foundation	416,311	435,045	1.31%	18,734	4.50%
Mississippi Baptist Health Systems					
Baptist Memorial Health Systems (1/3 owned by MS)					
Total	7,738,838	8,222,268	24.77%	483,430	6.25%
Mississippi Baptist Convention Board					
Baptist Record	569,086	602,608	1.82%	33,522	5.89%
Church & Community Impact	188,210	182,681	0.55%	(5,529)	(2.94%)
Church Growth	415,422	405,747	1.22%	(9,675)	(2.33%)
Church Music	464,732	489,006	1.47%	24,274	5.22%
Church Planting	500,460	519,328	1.56%	18,868	3.77%
Church-Minister Relations	277,260	296,022	0.89%	18,762	6.77%
Collegiate Ministry	1,717,076	1,794,675	5.41%	77,599	4.52%
Communication Services	442,959	458,421	1.38%	15,462	3.49%
Computer Information Services	256,883	273,853	0.83%	16,970	6.61%
Convention & Convention Committees	110,425	111,529	0.34%	1,104	1.00%
Discipleship & Family Ministry	698,201	717,955	2.16%	19,754	2.83%
Evangelism	261,276	271,262	0.82%	9,986	3.82%
Executive Administration	439,416	461,306	1.39%	21,890	4.98%
Conferencing (formerly Gulfshore Assembly)	250,000	299,797	0.90%	49,797	19.92%
Men's Ministry	610,982	664,069	2.00%	53,087	8.69%
Missions Mobilization	494,712	543,579	1.64%	48,867	9.88%
Mission Strategy	510,415	460,005	1.39%	(50,410)	(9.88%)
Pastor/Leadership Development	351,037	365,754	1.10%	14,717	4.19%
Resource Services/Financial Services	746,892	769,995	2.32%	23,103	3.09%
Stewardship	262,004	270,442	0.82%	8,438	3.22%
Sunday School	595,229	674,569	2.03%	79,340	13.33%
Synergized Relationships / Teams	78,900	77,750	0.23%	(1,150)	(1.46%)
Woman's Missionary Union	879,642	931,186	2.81%	51,544	5.86%
Capital Needs	548,679	725,000	2.18%	176,321	32.14%
Total	11,669,898	12,366,539	37.26%	696,641	5.97%
Total Cooperative Program Budget	31,314,491	33,188,934	100.00%	1,874,443	5.99%
Challenge Portion Percentages:					
Christian Education	50%	50%			
Disaster Relief	50%	0%			
Southern Baptist Missions	0%	30%			
New Church Starts in MS	0%	20%			

Board sends record budget to messengers

By William H. Perkins Jr.
Editor

The Mississippi Baptist Convention Board (MBCB) will send another record Cooperative Program (CP) budget proposal to messengers for fiscal 2007, after holding steady with the same budget amount from 2005 to 2006 to allow for recovery from the financial effects of Hurricane Katrina.

The proposed 2007 CP budget approved on August 29 by the convention board's executive committee and later by the full board, is \$33,188,934 — \$1,874,443, or 5.99%, higher than the twin 2005 and 2006 budget totals of \$31,314,491.

The convention board also set challenge portion percentages for CP gifts after the budget is met at 50% for Christian education, 30% for Southern Baptist missions, and 20% for new church starts in Mississippi.

The proposed budget will be submitted to messengers to the 2006 Mississippi Baptist Convention on October 31-November 1 at First Church, Jackson. Messengers are selected from cooperating member churches of the Mississippi Baptist Convention.

In other business, Larry Otis, chairman of the Conference Ministries Study Committee, presented a preliminary report on the work of the

committee which is charged with studying the condition of Gulfshore Assembly near Pass Christian and to explore all possibilities related to Mississippi Baptist conference ministries.

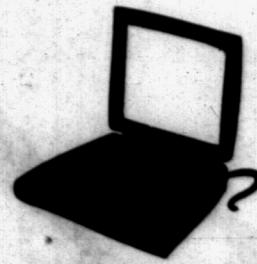
Gulfshore Assembly, owned by MBCB and destroyed by Hurricane Katrina in late August 2005, is one of three Mississippi Baptist camping/conference facilities. The committee is charged with positioning the state's Baptist conference ministries for the 21st century.

"The committee has met several times with numerous public officials, engineers, and architects to determine the extent of damage to Gulfshore," said Otis, a member of Calvary Church, Tupelo, and former mayor of Tupelo.

The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) has established a 'cumulative damage level' of 50% on structures in the flood zone where Gulfshore is located. That means if a structure sustains more than 50% damage, FEMA requires that it be completely demolished and rebuilt to the new standards in order to qualify for flood insurance," he explained.

"Kelly Auditorium and the staff housing were destroyed, and have been torn down. They're gone. Gulfshore's main building sustained 48.9% damage, meaning any future small damage would require that entire structure to also be torn

(cont'd, page 2)



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* There must be some psychological reason why Americans put so much faith in the mindless ramblings of Hollywood celebrities, many of whom come from backgrounds much less sophisticated than our own and possessing considerably less education.

Yet we absorb every word that flows from the mouth of longtime vulgar Madonna, the aging pop star who plans to spice up her next tour by placing herself mockingly on a cross. One wouldn't know from her fans' adulation that she had an unremarkable Midwestern upbringing and dropped out of the University of Michigan after two years.

That sounds like a lot of other average Americans, so why are her intellectually-vapid political and social statements given so much weight?

Television and movie heartthrob George Clooney was born in Lexington, Ky., the son of a journeyman television newsman. Clooney didn't finish Western

Kentucky University, but an actor-cousin got him a bit part in a movie and he spent the next year sleeping in a friend's closet before he landed another role.

So, what's so unique in Clooney's background that qualifies him to make some of the most offensive political pronouncements to come out of entertainment business in years?

Natalie Maines, the outspoken lead singer for the Dixie Chicks, graduated from Lubbock High School like thousands of other kids but failed to graduate college. However, she had a well-known country music guitarist for a father who opened doors for her in the business.

Why should we care if she tells a London concert audience that she is ashamed of fellow Texan, U.S. President George W. Bush?

Now comes Brad Pitt, who grew up the son of a trucking company manager in Springfield, Mo. He too is a college dropout with a modest middle-class background, so what granted him license to be taken seriously when he recently said this in an Esquire Magazine interview about himself and his girl-

friend Angelina Jolie, an actress and mother of his infant daughter:

Angie and I will consider tying the knot when everyone else in the country who wants to be married is legally able.

What? In another breathtaking example of the elitism and narcissism (not to mention immorality) that seems to inevitably consume average folks like Madonna, Clooney, Maines, and Pitt upon achieving stardom, he apparently believes he can blackmail the entire country into approving homosexual marriage by withholding his own marriage to the woman by whom he has already sired a child.

Does he really think he can hold us all hostage on such an important issue, simply by refusing to do the right thing himself? Where did he get the idea that we would be awed by such genius? Have we convinced people like him that we are so spellbound by his fame that we would jump to approve homosexual marriage on his terms?

Unbelievable — but then again, perhaps not. This is America, after all. The Land of the Free, the Home of the Brave, and the Place of Worthless Adulation.

Board sends record budget (Cont'd from page 1)

down and rebuilt, just to qualify for flood insurance," he said.

That's not all, Otis pointed out.

"The proposed FEMA guidelines, which set 'storm surge levels' at 24 feet above mean sea level at Gulfshore's location, would render the first and second floors of the Gulfshore main building unusable for any enclosed purpose such as guest rooms,

office space, class rooms, etc," he said. (See diagram at bottom left, pg. 1)

Otis stressed that the nine-member committee is still collecting information and is not prepared at present to offer any predictions on how the committee's final report will turn out.

"It has been affirmed to the Conference Ministries Study Committee that

Mississippi Baptists need and will use a conference facility to equip and train laypeople to serve the Lord," he said.

For more information on the committee and to submit input for the committee's consideration, visit www.mbc.org and click on the Conference Ministries Study Committee icon on the right side of the page.

GUEST OPINION:

Giving proves faith and love

By David Michel
Associate Executive Director
for Mission Strategy

An old stewardship premise states, "God doesn't need our gifts as much as we need to practice giving." Every September, Mississippi Baptists have an opportunity to rediscover the truth of that statement during the Margaret Lackey Offering for State Missions.

I was reminded of its truth on a recent trip to Kansas. My daughter and son-in-law are living there while he works on a Ph.D at the University in Lawrence. During the visit we attended church and the pastor preached from Colossians 1:4, where the Apostle Paul commends the believers for their faith in Christ and their love for all the saints.

The sermon's thesis was that faith and love go hand in hand. One cannot have faith in Christ without loving his fellow believers, and the vitality of our faith is strengthened by how deeply we love one another. Therefore, faith cannot be an individual exercise as much as it must be a corporate enterprise. Faith, apart from its practice in the body of Christ, ultimately withers away.

His primary illustration was the story of the paralytic in

Mark 2. It is the faith and love demonstrated by the four friends that result in the crippled's healing. If one had dropped his corner of the bedroll, the man may not have been saved. We are dependent on one another for wholeness and spiritual welfare.

On the way out the door, I exchanged greetings with the pastor and made sure he knew who my children were. Then we compared preaching notes. I suggested that even though his sermon topic was Biblically accurate, it was not an easily understood concept — especially in the context of American individualism and the Baptist penchant for personal faith in

Jesus. He agreed and we commiserated over the poverty of a privatized piety.

Standing outside under the portico, I met a man who owns a demolition business. He has a fishing buddy who lives in Grenada, and so we developed instant Mississippi rapport. The conversation turned to Katrina and the ongoing recovery. He was looking for a way to connect his business expertise and his concern for people displaced by the storm. I immediately gave him the telephone number of Jim Didlake, who happens to be Margaret Lackey's best friend and directs the Katrina rebuilding effort as the Mississippi

Convention Board's Director of Men's Ministries and coordinator of Mississippi Baptist disaster relief efforts.

On reflection after our conversation, I realized this man was a living illustration for the sermon we had just heard. He was not content to attend church and study Scripture. He was searching for a way to put love into action. He was determined that his faith find expression in his love for the saints in Mississippi and that his workday skills reflect his faithfulness to Christ. He joins almost 100,000 other volunteers who have lovingly given time and energy to relieve the suffering of fellow Mississippians over the last year.

Whenever we have opportunity to put faith into action through giving an offering or volunteering in ministry, we exercise our love for all the saints. By combining our faith and gifts we make a missional impact statewide. The two-million-dollar goal for Margaret Lackey this year encourages and challenges us not only to be generous, but also to work together in love as we seek to restore Mississippi to wholeness in Christ.

May you rediscover the joy and strength derived from giving.

Miss. church conflict detailed in Wall Street Journal

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (BP and local reports) — A front-page Wall Street Journal story on September 5 focusing on California Baptist pastor Rick Warren and featuring a Mississippi Baptist congregation asserts that upheaval has occurred in various churches that have embraced his "Purpose-Driven" emphasis.

"Congregations nationwide have split or expelled members who fought the changes, roiling working-class Baptist congregations and affluent nondenominational churches," Wall Street Journal reporter Suzanne Sataline wrote in the front-page story.

Iuka Church, Iuka, is cited in the article as a church that lost about 40 members after a 150-41 vote to expel a deacon who had been critical of the church's apparent move toward a Purpose-Driven-like style. The article goes on to detail the wrenching process that steered the church toward Warren's model under the leadership of former Pastor Jim Holcomb.

The 2,200-word story cites three other congregations where upheaval occurred from a move toward the principles espoused by Warren, pastor of Saddleback Church in Lake Forest, Calif., and author of the best-seller, *The Purpose-Driven Life*.

The story, however, does not relay any estimates of the extent of problems nationwide stemming from Warren's Purpose-Driven methods.

The sole quote from Warren, graduate of Southwestern Seminary in Ft. Worth, whose church draws 20,000 people each weekend, is relayed midway in the story:

"Mr. Warren acknowledges that splits occur in congregations that adopt his ideas," the paper recounts, "though he says he opposes efforts to expel church members. 'There is no growth without change and there is no change without loss and there is no loss without pain,' he says. 'Probably 10% of all churches are in conflict at any given point, regardless of what they're doing.' That, he contends, 'is not just symptomatic of changing to purpose-driven. It would be symptomatic in changing to anything.'"

Apart from recapping the experiences of several individuals in the four congregations, the story quotes one critic, Bob DeWaay, senior pastor of the nondenominational Twin City Fellowship in Minneapolis and author of *Redefining Christianity: Understanding the Purpose-Driven Life Movement*, a paperback published by 21st Century Press, a self-described "subsidy press" based in Springfield, Mo.

The article describes DeWaay as concerned that Warren is "gutting" Christianity. "The Bible's theme is about redemption and atonement, not finding meaning and solving problems," DeWaay is quoted as saying.

The article states that Warren "encourages ministers to banish church traditions such as hymns, choirs and pews." Purpose-Driven worship, according to the article, entails contemporary Christian songs led by "praise team" singers and rock musicians. Warren's sermons, meanwhile, "rarely linger on self-denial and fighting sin, instead focusing on healing modern American angst, such as troubled marriages and stress," the article states.

Warren's "Internet marketing savvy," the article states, has connected with "tens of thousands" of pastors, many of whom have started new churches or sought to revitalize existent churches via a Purpose-Driven emphasis.

The article states that supporters of Warren's Purpose-Driven approach "credit it with energizing congregations, doubling the size of some churches and boosting the number of 'megachurches' of more than 2,000 members. By Warren's count, according to the article, Saddleback ministries have trained 400,000 pastors globally. "He reaches many more through sales of his sermons, books and lessons on the Web," the article states. "Mr. Warren says he donates 90% of his money to fund philanthropy and overseas training."

In addition to Iuka Church, the three congregations cited in the article as having undergone Purpose-Driven-related turmoil are:

- Valley View Christian Church in Dallas, which has lost 200 members to a new church spawned by opposition to Valley View's move to a Purpose-Driven emphasis. The church's senior minister is Barry McCarty, longtime chief parliamentarian at the

Southern Baptist Convention's annual meetings who has stirred questions over the years about not being Southern Baptist.

Among those moving to the new church, according to the Wall Street Journal article, is Harriet Miers, whom President Bush unsuccessfully sought to nominate to the U.S. Supreme Court earlier this year.

McCarty told Baptist Press, "Our church used the five purposes from the Purpose-Driven Life (worship, fellowship, discipleship, ministry, and evangelism) as the outline for our strategic plan because they are the purposes for the church that are revealed in Scripture. It ought to be noted that Rick Warren did not invent these five purposes; he simply popularized them. Rick got these five purposes from the Bible.

...Rick's heart is the same place that our hearts are: We want to do what God has assigned us to do as individuals and as a church."

- First Church of Lakewood in Long Beach, Calif., a congregation affiliated with the Baptist General Conference. The church's worship attendance has fallen from 700 to 550, pastor John Dickau told The Journal, since he guided the church into a Purpose-Driven mode seven years ago. Part of the problem, Dickau said, began with attempting to change the church too quickly.

- Brookwood Church in Burlington, N.C., a Southern Baptist congregation where attendance has dropped from 600 to 275 since the introduction of a Purpose-Driven approach in 2001.

Neither Warren nor the Wall Street Journal writer, Suzanne Sataline, responded to Baptist Press' request for further comment by BP's deadline.

Dem faithful join Web

WASHINGTON (ABP) — A group of Christians who vote Democratic have launched an Internet forum aimed at making religious voters question whether the GOP is really the more faith-friendly political party, as polls show many believe — and they're doing it just in time for the 2006 midterm congressional elections. The site, www.FaithfulDemocrats.com, was officially christened on September 5. According to Adam Segal, a spokesman for the organization running the site, Faithful Democrats is not an official part of the Democratic Party apparatus. Its co-chairmen are Roy Herron, an attorney and United Methodist minister who serves as the Democratic floor leader in the Tennessee Senate, and Romal Tune, a Maryland Baptist minister and public-policy consultant. In the website's lead article the day of its launch, Herron explained their reasons for the undertaking. "I am tired of politicians, partisans, and preachers spelling God 'G-O-P,'" he wrote. "But make no mistake — regardless of how wrong they are or how false their doctrine is, they have been frighteningly effective. Now many Americans think Jesus never rode a donkey and today rides only an elephant." Proving that may be an uphill battle. In the comments section following Herron's article, an anonymous poster wrote, "I appreciate your sincerity. Perhaps you could share your conversion experience and explain how your relationship with Christ squares with various positions taken by the Democrat party that have caused conservative, evangelical Christians to walk away from your Democrat party. You know what they are." Polls in recent years have shown most voters find the Republican Party much more religion-friendly than the Democratic Party, including a study released August 26 by the Pew Forum on Religion and Public Life that showed Republicans with a 47-26% advantage over Demos.



MISSISSIPPI
BAPTISTS

THE SECOND FRONT PAGE

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Looking back

10 years ago

Most relief workers from America — including Southern Baptists — safely depart northern Iraq in the wake of Saddam Hussein's sweep into the area, but hundreds of their local Kurdish employees could face execution at the hands of Iraqi secret police.

20 years ago

Smoke alarms and quick action by a houseparent at the Mississippi Baptist Children's Village avert tragedy when Quarles Cottage erupts in flames in the middle of the night while the facility is filled to capacity with teenaged girls.

60 years ago

M. Theron Rankin of the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board calls on Mississippi Baptists to support the post-war world evangelism effort, noting that most Chinese Baptists exhausted more than 90% of their resources during the war.

WHAT I HAVE LEARNED FROM WRITING THIS ARTICLE

When I came to this place of service eight years ago, I thought about writing a weekly article to be published in The Baptist Record. I sought the insight and wisdom of others before beginning. Some advised me to do it. I had been writing an article for the church mailout for years. Some thought, as did I, that it was an excellent way to express ideas and connect with the people. Others admonished me not to do it, implying that anything I say can and will be used against me. Both positions have merit, but since I was called to this position with the responsibility of giving some direction I felt that it was important good, bad, or otherwise that I try to express to the Mississippi Baptist community of faith some of the activities, the spiritual foundation, and at times my spiritual journey in trying to point in the right direction. Soon we will have published the 400th Directions article in The Baptist Record. I suppose time and eternity will reveal the significance or value to anyone, but I can tell you for me it has been a learning experience. In today's Directions let me share with you some things I have learned in writing this article.

First, I have learned that a lot of people read The Baptist Record. In calls, emails, correspondence, and personal conversations many of you have commented to me about some specific article that I have written or indicated that you read the column and The Baptist Record with some regularity. The responses have ranged from delight to disappointment over what I have written.



YOU CAN RESPOND RIGHT NOW!

Simply share the following prayer with God in your own words:

1. Lord, I admit that I need you. (I have sinned.)
2. I want forgiveness for my sins and freedom from eternal death. (I repent.)
3. I believe Jesus died and rose from the grave to forgive my sins and to restore my relationship with you. (I believe in Jesus.)
4. By faith, I invite Jesus Christ into my life. From this time on, I want to live in a loving relationship with Him. (I receive Christ as my Savior and Lord.)

"But as many as received him, to them he gave the right to become children of God, even to those who believe in his name." (John 1:12)

If you make a decision for Jesus Christ today, contact a local Baptist church for spiritual guidance.

WHAT I HAVE LEARNED FROM WRITING THIS ARTICLE



Directions

Jim Futral, executive director-treasurer
Mississippi Baptist Convention Board

One person told me they have cut out the Directions articles and kept every one of them. Another person came up to me at a church and said, "I read your article every week and sometimes I just want to pinch your head off." In both cases I simply smiled and said, "Thank You," because I have experienced both sentiments myself. I am grateful for the opportunity to try to connect with our large Baptist family here in the state. The Baptist Record has a great tradition and continues to be an important publication for us to share with each other and seek to understand each other as we serve our great Savior together. Every week 90,000 copies of The Baptist Record go out and though every person in our churches does not receive a paper, folks in every county in the state have opportunity to read what is going on in Baptist life.

A second thing I have learned is that oftentimes what you write is open to numerous interpretations. It is absolutely amazing how you can write something and one person draws one conclusion and another person arrives at the opposite end of the pole. I suppose we can in part thank the wonderful people at the Tower

of Babel for all the confusion as we try to communicate with each other. I know that I am writing in English, and you are probably reading in English but there is a world of factors that become barriers. Whoever the brilliant person was who said that the United States and Great Britain are two great countries separated by a common language, said a mouth full. Just simple, common words can be so misinterpreted and misunderstood that it is shocking.

I recall one day in a classroom the professor walked to the board and wrote one four-letter word on the chalkboard. He then instructed us to write down its meanings. The word was "plug." Quickly he reminded us to think about things like an electrical plug, or maybe a stopper, fishing plug, or an old, plug mule. After we came up with a handful of usages, he shared with us that the dictionary had 14 different meanings of that one simple word. That means that sometimes what we think we are saying is certainly not what someone else is reading. It is true for all of us.

The third thing I have learned is that for some folks if they have a disagreement with something you write, it is quickly transformed into "I don't like you." Having a dif-

ferent position or a different approach to an issue is perfectly acceptable, but meanness couched in whatever form seems to be uncalled for and potentially can be unchristian.

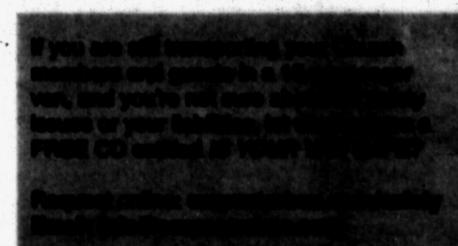
The fourth and final thing that I have learned is that some people do not recognize, appreciate, or want any humor. Occasionally, I will write something from what seems to me to be a humorous point of view. Sometimes I will write something that is tongue in cheek. For the most part people read, understand, and experience a light moment, and maybe even enjoy it. I have also learned that there are some readers who do not understand or maybe they just don't want to have any veins of humor in their life. For me there is so much heavy stuff, so much pain and heartbreak, and so much grim news in our world that I look for and long to have a little bit of the medicine spoken of in Scripture and share it with others. "A merry heart doeth good like a medicine..." (Prov. 17:22). When I write things that are good news I hope that you will be able to be glad, but when I look at the humorous side of things and it makes you mad, I am truly sorry.

That is not all that I have learned, but that is all that I am going to write for this article. In the days ahead, I will continue to share Directions with you. I hope that you will continue to read and together we will keep on learning and growing in the Lord.

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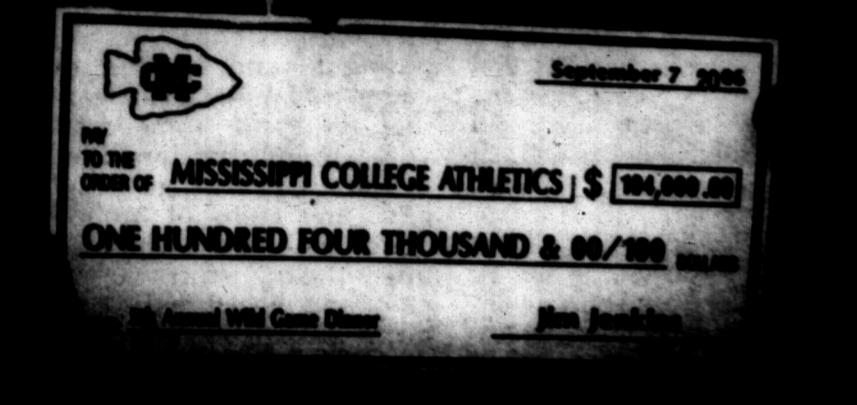
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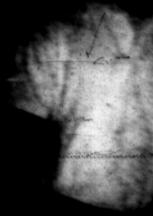
COLLEGE NEWS



1. Annual Wild Game Dinner, MC

1. The "M" Club, Mississippi College, raised \$104,000 at the 5th Annual Wild Game Dinner for MC athletics Sept. 7. Baseball coach Mike Bianco was the featured speaker. Shown are M-Club president Jim Jenkins, MC athletic director Mike Jones, president Lee G. Royce, and Bianco.

STAFF CHANGES



2. Parish and family, Tomnolen Church, Eupora

1. Tommy Winders has resigned as pastor of First Church, Fulton, and can be contacted at 202 Piercetown Road, Fulton, MS, 38843. Phone: (662) 862-2845 or 231-5553.
2. Tomnolen Church, Eupora, has called Don Parish as pastor effective Aug. 27. Shown are Chance, Corey, Sonya, and Don Parish.
3. Sunflower Church, Sunflower, has called Lee Kirk as pastor. Kirk, his wife Cherri, daughter Carley Grace, and sons Matthew and Christian reside in Roundaway.

REVIVALS & HOMECOMINGS

Beulah Church, Lexington: Homecoming, Sept. 24; Sunday School, 10 a.m.; worship, 11 a.m., followed by lunch and afternoon singing; Mike Steen, speaker; Johnson Family, music.

Carey Chapel, Mount Pleasant: Homecoming, Oct. 15; casual, outdoor, all day reunion with preaching, dinner on the grounds, music, and games. Call (662) 851-7543 for more information.

Center Terrace Church, Canton: Revival, Sept. 17-20; Sun., Sunday School, 9 a.m.; worship, 10:30 a.m. and 6 p.m.; Mon.-Wed., 7 p.m.; Gary Strehlow, Jackson, speaker; Tricia McNulty, Brandon, music; Danny Berry, pastor.

Concord Church, Bruce: Revival, Sept. 17-20; Sun., 11 a.m.; Sun.-Wed., 7 p.m.; Gerald Finley, speaker; Michael Waldrop, music.

Sunrise Church, Leake County: Homecoming, Sept. 24; worship, 11 a.m., followed by lunch; Ken Harrison, speaker.

First Church, Leakesville: Revival, Sept. 17-20; Sun., 10:30 a.m. and 6 p.m.; Mon.-Wed., noon and 7 p.m.; Bill Bozeman, speaker; Mike Smith, music; Philip Price, pastor.

Hickory Church, Hickory: Homecoming, Sept. 24, 11 a.m., followed by dinner on the grounds; Wiley Abel, Wiggins, speaker; Gary Dover, music.

Mt. Vernon Church, Lauderdale Association: Revival, Sept. 24-27; Sun., 11 a.m.; Mon.-Wed., 7 p.m.; Jim Futral, Jason Bird, Hal Bates, and Jim Rickles, speakers; Karla Rickles Cloutier, music; Jim Rickles, pastor.

New Providence Church, Hazlehurst: Homecoming, Sept. 17; Sunday School, 9:45 a.m.; worship, 11 a.m., followed by lunch; Eddie Maher, speaker; Jamie Wallace, pastor.

Salem Church, Tylertown: Revival, Sept. 24-27; Sun., 11 a.m., followed by covered dish lunch and 6 p.m.; Mon.-Wed., 7 p.m.; Henry Robertson, speaker; Charles Jones, music; Mark Wicker, pastor.

Sylvarena Church, Sylvarena: Homecoming and Revival, Sept. 17-20; Sun., worship, 11 a.m., followed by dinner on the ground; Mon.-Wed., 7 p.m.; Greg Warnock, speaker; Todd McDaniels, music; Stuart Givens, pastor.

Bibliocipher

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CPF CDTJCJO UCKF, OA
UQP, IQF YKNN RTQXKFG
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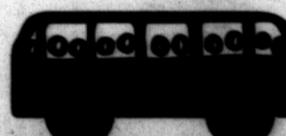
GKJIV

Clue: I = C

Have fun with cryptography and exercise your Bible knowledge. A King James Version Bible verse has been encoded by letter substitution. The same letter is substituted throughout the puzzle. Solve by trial and error. Answer to last week's puzzle: John Three Eight: Twenty-Six.

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Welch presses on toward million baptism goal

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (BP) — Bobby Welch, immediate past president of the Southern Baptist Convention (SBC), is continuing a fervent push toward the September 30 culmination of the "Everyone Can!" Kingdom Challenge" for Southern Baptists to reach one million baptisms.

Welch recently proclaimed the Gospel from a pontoon boat on a small lake in west Tennessee as nearly 400 people gathered on the banks for an associational baptism rally hosted by Weakley County Association in Dresden.

"I think the thing that struck me about it was how wonderfully the Lord is using the emphasis on witnessing, winning and baptizing to unify and propel so many associations to a new level of gathering and emphasis," said Welch, who is continuing his Everyone Can travels across the country. "The thing that continues to encourage me is that where people have made an effort to take seriously the Everyone Can challenge, there seems to always be a newfound unity of purpose. That was certainly evident in Weakley County."

Welch first urged churches to get together for associational baptism rallies last fall. The August 8

event in west Tennessee was a cooperative effort between the 44 churches in Weakley association, said Director of Missions Wayne Perkins.

As September 30 — the end of the church year and the end of the Everyone Can emphasis — approaches, Welch said it's still too early to evaluate progress toward the one million baptisms goal numerically because churches aren't due to report those numbers yet.

He is certain the convention is "doing overwhelmingly better than we would have been had we not made this effort toward reaching more people."

"The thing I continue to experience," Welch said, "is what was characterized by the meeting in Tennessee and others I've attended, which is that all over the country I've never heard as much talking and as much emphasis on witnessing, winning and baptizing in recent history as we are now."

"I have not let up at all since turning over the presidency, and I have no intention of letting up," he said. "For Southern Baptists, the quest to witness, win and baptize has never been a one-year emphasis. It has been a biblical mandate right out of the mouth of the Son of God for every believer."



SAVED — Candidates for baptism line up in the water on August 8 in west Tennessee, where 22 people were baptized during an associational baptism rally hosted by Weakley County Association and featuring former Southern Baptist Convention President Bobby Welch. (BP photo courtesy of Linda Perkins)

JUST FOR THE RECORD



MISSISSIPPI BAPTISTS

1. Deacon Ordination, Gaston Church, Prentiss Association



2. Deacon Ordination, Wallerville Church, Union County



3. Bible Drill, Society Hill Church, Oakvale



4. Spring Graduates, Sardis Church, Hazlehurst

1. **Gaston Church, Prentiss Association**, ordained Dewey Wilemon and Kevin Eubank as deacons Aug. 27. Shown are Wilemon and Eubank.

2. **Wallerville Church, Union County**, ordained Allen Jennings as deacon Aug. 20. Shown are George Hodges, Jennings, and pastor Horace Thomas.

3. **Society Hill Church, Oakvale**, recognizes its Bible drill participants: Carrie Dyess, Luke Coleman, and Sara Dyess.

4. **Sardis Church, Hazlehurst**, recently honored all their spring 2006 graduates with a special day and luncheon in their honor. Shown, front row, are Stephen Barlow, Kathryn O'Neal, and Savannah Madison; back row, Amber Ashley, Amy McKenzie, Vanda Brister, Joshua Sanders, and Cory Gemelli.

5. **Starkville Fellowship Church, Starkville**, assisted Sturgis Church during the recent motorcycle rally in Sturgis by distributing water and pamphlets. Shown are the participants

6. **First Church, Coffeeville**, held its annual recognition service for their GAs, RAs, and Mission Friends. Shown are the participants.

7. **Liberty Hill Church, Panola Association**, recognized Louis Snider for 42 years of perfect attendance in Sunday School Sept. 3. Shown is pastor Jay Anderson, Snider, and Roger Crosswhite.

8. **Victory Church, Bassfield**, held baptisms in the Bouie River for three consecutive Sundays in July. Shown is one of the candidates along with pastor George Gerald Aultman.

9. **Cedar View Church, Olive Branch**, is hosting a community singing with members of First Church, Olive Branch, Sept. 16, 6 p.m.

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5. Sturgis Rally Volunteers, Starkville Fellowship Church, Starkville



6. Children's Recognition Service, First Church, Coffeeville



7. Perfect Attendance, Liberty Hill Church, Panola Association



8. River Baptisms, Victory Church, Bassfield

JUST FOR THE RECORD



10. Lane and Carpenter, Providence Church, Grenada



12. LifeWay Student Life for kids, Cane Creek Church, Perkinston



13. Deacon Ordination, Kokomo Church, Kokomo



14. GAs Missions Project, Crowder Church, Crowder

10. Providence Church, Grenada, awarded a medal to RA Austin Carpenter for memorizing 75 memory verses. Shown are RA leader Tim Lane and Carpenter.

11. Bethsaida Church, Philadelphia, is hosting a singing featuring Glorybound and Freedom Land Quartet Sept. 23, 6 p.m., followed by a finger food fellowship. This is a fundraiser for the church's building project. Billy James, pastor.

12. Several children and parents of Cane Creek Church, Perkinston, attended the LifeWay Student Life for kids camp at Ridgecrest, N.C. Shown are the participants.

13. Kokomo Church, Kokomo, ordained Jerrel Pounds and Dale Hudson as deacons Aug. 20. Shown are pastor Glenn Nance, Pounds, Dianna Pounds, Hudson, and Diane Hudson.

14. The GAs of Crowder Church, Crowder, collected school supplies to send to North American missionary Dawn Wilder in Kansas City, Missouri for Christmas in August. Shown, kneeling, is Jessica Simmerman; second row, Nicole Golden and Brittany Woods; back row, Ashley Bell, Destiny Petit, and Angel Aguilar.

15. The GAs of Providence Church, Grenada, recently received their World Venture charm bracelets and their first year charms. Shown are Savannah McRee, Catherine Pannell, Hunter Austin, Amanda Avery, and Julie Pannell, leader.

16. Bunker Hill Church, Columbia, ordained Jeff Duncan and Stacey Buckley as deacons. Shown are Duncan, Carmen Duncan, pastor Randy Gardner, Carrie Buckley, and Buckley.

17. West Heights Church, Pontotoc, licensed David Hamilton to the ministry Sept. 3. Shown are Hamilton and his father, pastor David Hamilton.

18. West Laurel Church, Laurel, recently licensed Jose Rodriguez to the ministry. Shown are Karli Rodriguez, Elena Rodriguez, Rodriguez, and pastor Jeff Taylor.

19. Morning View Church, Mantachie, recently installed its new pastor, Ray Kirk. Shown are Marc Howard, AMD, Itawamba Association, and Kirk.

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15. GAs, Providence Church, Grenada



16. Deacon Ordination, Bunker Hill Church, Columbia



17. Hamilton Licensing, West Heights Church, Pontotoc



19. Marc Howard and Kirk, Morning View Church, Mantachie



18. Rodriguez Licensing, West Laurel Church, Laurel

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MS POSITIONS

BRANDON BAPTIST CHURCH NEEDS PAID CHILDCARE WORKERS for Sunday a.m./p.m., Wednesday nights and special events. Also, a man to help set up tables on an as needed basis. Call the church for an application at (601) 824-1781.

CALVARY BAPTIST CHURCH, VICKSBURG, MISS., is accepting resumes for bivocational minister of music. Mail to search committee, 2878 Old Hwy 27, Vicksburg, MS 39180 or email to chriscollins@rebweld.com.

CAREY CHAPEL BAPTIST CHURCH is seeking a bi-vocational minister of music and bi-vocational minister of youth. We are a rural church located in a growing community. Please direct inquiries to search team chairman, 170 Carey Chapel Road, Red Banks, MS 38661, (662) 851-7543 or email inquiries to poppongdeere1@hotmail.com.

PARKWAY BAPTIST, HERNANDO, MISS., seeking a full-time Minister of Education and part-time Minister of Music. We need spiritually-mature and motivated team members. Parkway is growing with unlimited potential. If the Lord leads you, contact the Personnel Committee: 50 N. Parkway,

Hernando, MS 38632, Fax: (662) 429-6076, email bailey_pbc@yahoo.com.

DIAMONDHEAD BAPTIST CHURCH is seeking a full-time Pastor for our Christ centered, Bible based, Southern Baptist Church on the Mississippi Gulf Coast. Resumes should be sent to: Pastor Search Committee; Diamondhead Baptist Church; 63780 Diamondhead Drive North; Diamondhead, MS 39525-3932, (228) 255-3348.

HILLCREST BAPTIST CHURCH, BYRAM, MISS., seeking paid nursery workers. Call (601) 372-0132.

IMMANUEL BAPTIST CHURCH IN HATTIESBURG, MISS., is seeking a minister of students to administer and develop all facets of ministry for students between the ages of 2 and 18. For more information, please contact personnel committee, Immanuel Baptist Church, 510 Westerby Rd., Hattiesburg, MS 39402. Or email resumes to pastor-david@immanuel-baptist.com.

UNION WEST BAPTIST CHURCH, LAFAYETTE COUNTY is seeking a minister of music. Please send resume to Union West Baptist Church, 794 CR Oxford, Miss. 38655, attn: Bro Derek Starnes or call (662) 234-1338.



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"Are We There Yet?"

By Jimmy Porter

Every person who has traveled any distance with young children has heard them ask, "Are we there yet?" When the answer is "No," the next question is, "When will we get there?" Those are some of the same questions we find ourselves answering in the Christian Action Commission. The phone rings and the caller inquires as to the number of pennies collected, and the first question is "Are we there yet?" Our response is "No," and the following question is "How many do we lack?"

THANK YOU for calling and asking. We are not there yet but progress is being made. Every week, if not every day, more pennies are collected. Many churches and individuals are working as hard as ever to collect pennies for which we are grateful. It is also amazing that every week someone calls and says, "What is this penny project?" Or they say, "This is the first I have heard of it."

Recently Dr. Futral wrote an article on "The Memorial to the Missing." From it a pamphlet was designed and mailed to

pastors and church leaders throughout our state containing information about the Memorial and how the pennies would be used when the glass case is removed. It is important that every person be given the opportunity to participate and that you understand the significance of this endeavor. Allow me to review some of the points in his article.

1. Are we still collecting pennies? Yes, and we will be until the goal of 50 million has been reached.

2. I do not have pennies so can I give pennies or cash? Yes, you may give any type and size of gift and it will be converted into pennies and placed in the Memorial.

3. My church has not participated in gathering pennies, but can I be a part anyway? Some churches have not participated for various reasons, but this does not exclude you from being a part of this ongoing ministry. You can participate by making your contributions to MBCB and designate them to The Memorial to the Missing.

4. May I give money in memory or in honor of someone? Yes, you may, and if you provide an address, our office will be glad to mail a letter of acknowledgement.

5. How will the pennies be used? The pennies will be put in an endowment with the Mississippi Baptist Foundation and each year the proceeds will be used for pro-life needs across our state. No salaries or administrative costs will come from these pennies as every cent will be used in ministries that support and enhance life.

Many of you may have pennies with no way of getting them to the Memorial, so we are offering to pick them up for you. The personnel in the Baptist Building are always traveling throughout the state and will be happy to pick up your pennies. If you have depleted your penny resources and still want to contribute, you can by mailing your contribution to the Christian Action Commission, PO Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205.

Is THE MEMORIAL TO THE MISSING making a difference in anyone's life? You decide as you read the following e-mail we received from someone who heard of the Memorial and came to see it.

"My husband and I were in Jackson for Promise Keepers this weekend. A friend told me about your project. Saturday afternoon we visited it. The sight brought tears to my eyes.

We have two grandchildren lost to abortion while our daughters were in college. (Parents

were not supposed to find out about the abortions. But one daughter had a nightmare during one of our visits 15 years after her abortion. It prompted questions which lead to the revelation.) Also, my husband's sister was forced by their mom to have an abortion at age 16.

My husband had three pennies in his pocket and suggested that we add our pennies to the project to represent our babies. I found it difficult to let go of the pennies that represented my daughters' babies. I began to cry and held onto the penny with one finger as it lay on the slot. Then finally I let go of it.

I've cried many tears over those babies but never allowed myself to sob like I did on Saturday. I believe it was a needed part of the healing process. Thanks for helping in my healing."

The Memorial to the Missing has already impacted thousands of lives — those who have collected pennies, those who have visited the site and those out there who have resisted it. It is a testimony to the fact that Mississippi Baptists believe life is precious and should be protected. A glass case filled with pennies symbolizing the 50 million children that should be here is overwhelming. Thank you for helping tell the world that Mississippi Baptists care.

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Mr. Jimmy Killough, owner of Tombigbee Finance Co. in Tupelo, recently presented a \$2,500 check to Dr. Rory Lee, BCV Executive Director, to support the needs of the nearly 300 children cared for annually through The Baptist Children's Village ministry.

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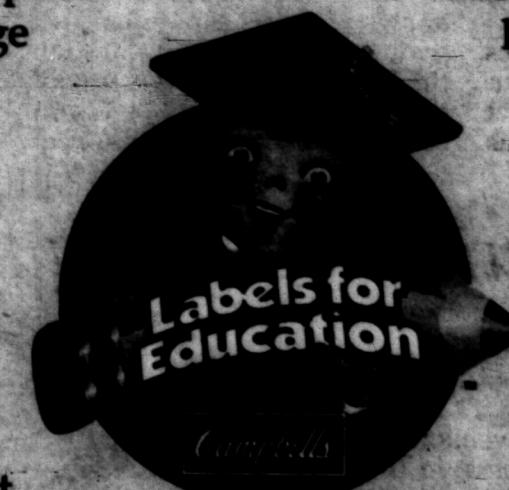
Mr. Ray Powell
Billy & Wanda House
Mildred Piper Warren Price
Mr. & Mrs. Billy W. Owen Sr.
Betty Jean Kyle
Mr. & Mrs. Travis E. Harden
Sister-in-law of Mary Scrivner
Glenda & Jerry Fry
Dorothy Skelton
Mr. & Mrs. Glen King
Mrs. V. Ray (Georgia) Smith
Mr. & Mrs. James Crosby
Clarice Whitehead
Mr. Paul H. Stanley, Sr.
Fellowship Class, FBC-Batesville
Dr. Stephen Sullivan
Mr. & Mrs. Dale S. Rowsey
Jean & Will Polk
Mr. & Mrs. S. L. Still
Mr. Dick Turner
Mrs. Pat Duckworth
Mrs. Evie Lee Thorpe
Mr. & Mrs. Jimmy Jenkins
Sally Mae Thorpe
Mr. & Mrs. Boyd H. Hudson
Mr. Arthur A. Vaughn
Mr. & Mrs. John T. Keeton, Jr.
Mrs. Audrey H. Vines

Dr. & Mrs. Dunbar McCorley
Mike & Susie Daughdrill
L. Clifton Walker
Mrs. Gus Evans
Roland Wall, Jr.
Mrs. Pat Duckworth
Dr. Robert N. Walters
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Paul Watson III
Mr. & Mrs. Jimmy Bruton
Billie Jones Wells, Sr.
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Mrs. Cheryl White
Mr. & Mrs. Jerry Thomas
Mr. Jack T. Willis
Mr. & Mrs. Rufus Childs
Mr. & Mrs. John T. Keeton Jr.
Cadarette Water Assoc. Brd of Dir
Janice Wyckoff
Mr. & Mrs. James N. Covington
Mr. & Mrs. Bryan Russell
Houston Younger
Graeber Brothers Inc.
Father of Delores Herrin Young
Glenda & Jerry Fry

Attention All Campbell's Labels Collectors

The Campbell's Company ed about the potential this now needs the UPC Codes year because the red label from the soup labels — not the front label.

The Baptist Children's Village needs 1.5 million UPC Codes from eligible products to acquire a mini van. We have already banked about 133,000 so we welcome all the help you can give to collect these UPC Codes. We are especially excit-



For a list of the "Eligible Products" you can email Chrystelle Thames at cthames@baptistchildrensvillage.com or call us at 601-922-2242.

Mr. Jimmy Smith of Stonewall Baptist Church, Wesson recently presented Dr. Rory Lee, BCV Executive Director, with a donation \$909.64 in pennies and other cash donations to support The BCV ministry from the church. Mr. Smith told the story of hearing a missionary speak in his church over 40 years ago. The missionary gave everyone a penny and told the people that if they would give their pennies to missions they could make a difference in the world. Since then, Mr. Smith has collected his pennies and given them to mission efforts through his church. He chose to share his latest collection with the children of The Baptist Children's Village.

FAMILY BIBLE STUDY

The Agony of Defeat

Joshua 7:6-7, 10-13, 16-21, 24-26

By Arthur Story

Joshua and the Israelite people had just experienced two great victories. They had crossed the Jordan and they had conquered the city of Jericho. Both victories had come through God's miraculous power as a result of their willingness to follow His plan. Now Joshua and the Israelites were struggling with how to handle a humiliating defeat.

In their two previous victories the Israelites recognized that God would have to intervene for them to succeed. In contrast, Joshua 7 doesn't communicate a sense of the people's dependence on God in regard to their attack on Ai. There is no indication in Joshua 7 that God was even consulted about the attack on Ai. The people appear overconfident and to a degree self-reliant.

At Jericho the spies came back and reported to Joshua "The Lord has handed over the entire land to us" (3:24). Yet, at Ai the spies told Joshua "Since the people of Ai are so few, don't wear out all our people there" (7:3). At Ai there appears to be no reliance on God by the Israelites and no clear direction from God on what they are supposed to do. This is a distinctly different from their earlier victories.

Previously Joshua had led the people to build a memorial to commemorate God's work in crossing the Jordan. He also led the people to leave a burnt spot were Jericho once was and to "put the silver and gold and the articles of bronze and iron into the treasury of the Lord's house" (6:24) in order to honor God. Now he had to lead the Israelites to deal with this defeat.

Joshua shows us strength and weakness in his response to the Israelites' defeat at Ai. In Joshua 7:6-7, he shows us strength in his decision to immediately turn to God. Following the defeat Joshua humbled himself before God and took his burden directly

to God. Unfortunately, he shows us weakness in his accusative attitude toward God. Instead of taking his burden to God for comfort and discernment, Joshua takes his burden and in a sense challenges God. He even laments that it would have been better to remain in the wilderness. Have you ever taken this approach? If we're honest about it we all have.

In verses 10-13, Joshua receives instruction from God about what has happened and what needs to be done. The defeat isn't the result of God's inaction on behalf of His people. It's the result of His people's disobedience. Joshua calls the people to "consecrate" themselves. They needed to examine

themselves. They needed to humbly return to Him and not rely on themselves. Even though our attention is focused on Achan and his family, all the Israelites had need to return to God what was His and His alone. Achan had taken treasures from Jericho that belonged solely to God but the people had taken the leadership position that belonged to God in attacking Ai. Have you ever deliberately disobeyed God and then failed in serving Him? If we're honest about it we all have. Have you ever become overconfident and neglected to seek His counsel? If we're honest about it we all have.

In verses 16-21 and 24-26, Joshua shows us how to deal with sin. Achan is confronted with his sin and the people carry out God's command from verse 15 on how to deal with the guilty party. If we aren't careful we can miss an important message in the text by focusing too much on the historical facts. If we're not careful all we will see in the text is Achan's sin, the Israelites' defeat, the 36 needless deaths,

and the apparent severity of the discipline on Achan's family. The confrontation of the sin recorded in these verses reveals to each of us the important need to completely and totally deal with sin. Achan's unchecked sin impacted everyone. Similarly, one area of unchecked sin in our lives impacts every area of our lives. Have you ever been the Achan among God's people? If we're honest about it we all have been. Have you followed God's Word and completely eliminated the known sins in your life? If we're honest about it we all probably haven't adequately dealt with our known sins.

When we experience spiritual failures and when we are helping others in the midst of them we should heed the example from Joshua 7. First, we should go to God not to accuse but for guidance. We should then examine ourselves according to His Word. Finally, we should deal with our sin.

Story is Minister of Education, First Church, Louisville.

EXPLORE THE BIBLE

Remain True

Hebrews 3:1-15

By Cyndi Grace

Sara Groves sings a wonderful song on her album Conversations entitled "Painting Pictures of Egypt." This song, based on Exodus 16:3 is about following God faithfully until hardships come and then we falsely remember how much better things were in "Egypt" or our personal places of bondage before Christ freed us. The chorus says:

I've been painting pictures of Egypt leaving out what it lacked.

The future feels so hard and I want to go back.

But the places that used to fit me cannot hold the things I've learned, And those roads were closed off to me when my back was turned.

While this song correlates well with our lesson concerning the Hebrew Christians, it should also be applied to us as

a warning. Many times we would rather go back to the good ole days rather than move toward something unknown ... even if it might be better. We must remember that God's ways are always moving us toward and to want to go back shows a great lack of faith ... just as the Israelites showed in the desert. The Bible calls this lack of faith, rebellion!

Granted, our world is in trouble — wars, terrorism, drugs, disasters, poverty, hate and the list goes on. Many who are confronted with these ask, "Where is God in all of this?" Perhaps you have even uttered those same words. Isaiah answered the Israelites this way, "When you walk through the fire, you will not be burned; the flames will not set you ablaze" (Is. 43:2b NIV) We all

Grace

need words of encouragement just as the writer of Hebrews encouraged those in harms way with a time of remembering, both of God's faithfulness in the past and man's rebellion. So, friend, when you are called to walk through the fire:

- Remember the many times God has brought you through difficult circumstances. I have stones on my desk marked with moments of God's working in my life. When I become discouraged, I pick up one of these stones and remember, "God was faithful then and He will be again!" Perhaps you too need to pick up some stones of remembrance!

- Reject what Satan, our enemy, whispers in your ear. Keep your eyes forward toward the joy set before you. Don't look backward or sideward but God-ward. He is moving you toward your promised land.

- Rededicate yourself to God and His call on your life.

When faced with the hardships of today, whether we are weak or afraid, there is power in saying that God is faithful in all He has said and then to believe it with all your heart! Ephesians says, "When you have done all you can, stand!" (Ephesians 6:13) Stand in His Word and in His faithfulness.

I love the book of Joshua's account of God's children's long awaited entry into the Promised Land. (Read Joshua 1-4.) Moses had died and God appointed Joshua as the new leader of the Hebrew people. As Joshua stood with the Jordan River before him and thousands of people behind him awaiting instructions, he was terrified. This was new for him but standing with the Promised Land in sight, perhaps he remembered 40 years prior as he had entered this very land. Perhaps he remembered his report that it was a land of milk and honey and that they could trust God. Maybe he looked into the eyes of those who were eagerly watching him and remembered

their parents who had refused to trust God and died in the desert. Recalling this, he had new resolve to go forward as he heard God's voice saying, "Do not be afraid!" Joshua rejected the temptation to look back. In Joshua 1:10 we see the word "So" in the NIV or "Then" in the CSB. These are word of intent; words of rededication! At that moment he knew he could trust God no matter what and in verse 16 we see the people said they would follow where he led and would do what he said to do.

Friends, we are all Joshuas to someone. God has a calling on each of our lives and there are those who are watching, perhaps to find this Christ we profess. We need to stand firm and encourage one another not hide in the shadows. He is moving us toward our own promised lands; will we answer "Wherever You Lead, I'll Go?," or will we paint pictures of Egypt?

Grace is a women's conference speaker and women's ministry director at Highland Church, Vicksburg.

Guidelines for submitting news and photographs

THE BAPTIST

Record

The Baptist Record is pleased to publish news and photographs of special events that take place in cooperating churches of the Mississippi Baptist Convention.

News submitted for publication in The Baptist Record must be either (a) typewritten, (b) neatly printed on 8 1/2 by 11-inch paper, or (c) neatly printed on standardized forms provided by the newspaper. All articles must be received in writing; no articles will be accepted over the telephone.

News may be submitted electronically to the address below, and must be contained in the message segment of an e-mail form. Due to increasing virus threats, no text attachments will be accepted.

Photograph attachments are permissible. Please make articles concise. Include the who, what, when, where details of the story, along with a contact person's address and telephone number.

Photographs may be color or black and white. Instant photos and digital printouts

are not reproducible. Digital photos may be used if submitted as a JPEG file via either (a) e-mail, (b) three-and-a-half inch floppy disk, or (c) CD. Photos must be clear, sharp, and well-lit.

All news items are subject to editing, and all photographs are subject to crop-

ping. Photographs must depict people. No landscape-, building-, or object-only photographs will be printed. News items and/or photographs can be published one time only. Deadline for submitting news is one week prior to requested publication date.

Articles that are not date-sensitive will be published on a space-available basis. Requests to return photographs must be accompanied by a self-addressed, stamped envelope.

Submit news and photographs to The Baptist Record, P.O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205-0530. FAX: (601) 292-3380. E-mail: baptistrecord@mcah.org.



MISSISSIPPI
BAPTISTS

CLM Conf. slated for Sept. 29-30

The 2006 Church Library Ministry Conference will be held September 29-30 at First Church, Louisville. This meeting provides training in areas of church library ministry with conferences for the new and experienced library worker.

Outstanding conference leaders from around the country will be participating as well as local leaders including Sandra Fitts of First Church, Corinth, and Cheryl Swain of First Church, Madison.

The guest speaker for the Friday night banquet will be author Catherine Palmer. A resident of Missouri, Palmer has written over 40 Christian novels. She has won many awards, including the Christy Award which is the highest honor in Christian fiction.

For more information, contact the Communication Services Department at the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board, P.O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205-0530. Telephone: (601) 292-3378 or toll-free outside Jackson (800) 748-1651, ext. 378. Email: irichardson@mbcb.org. Web Site: www.mbc.org.

Analysis: Entertainment or Entanglement?

By Jimmy Porter, Executive Director
Miss. Baptist Christian Action Commission

The young man smiled and said, "Preacher, we know you Baptists call it gambling but we prefer to call it 'entertainment.'" The context of our conversation did not allow me the opportunity to debate the issue then, but I have often wondered if it really is entertainment or is it entanglement?

Entertainment is defined by most dictionaries as to amuse, to give pleasure to an audience, and to keep a group of people interested. Let's ask Astrid Warnock, Greg Hogan and Kathy Barrett if gambling is entertainment or entanglement.

A former Trustmark National Bank teller pleaded guilty Tuesday to embezzling roughly \$1.3 million in a four year period to pay off gambling debts, buy a new house, and purchase new cars, according to the August 30, 2006 edition of the *Clarion Ledger*. She had worked at the bank for 25 years and began taking small amounts of money and going to the casino. She would put it back when she won, but as she began to lose, she took more. I don't think Astrid Warnock would say gambling was just "entertainment."

Greg Hogan was a minister's son, finance and accounting major at Lehigh University, president of his sophomore class, a cellist in the university orchestra, and an employee in the school chaplain's office.

He was also a bank robber. On December 9, 2005 he robbed an Allentown, Pennsylvania bank of \$2,871 to pay off gambling debts

incurred by online poker playing (*Faith & Family Impact*). Even though it might have been fun and exciting to begin with, I don't think in the final analysis Greg Hogan would say gambling was just "entertainment."

Kathy Barrett watched as the so-called "entertainment" business devastated her family. Her son was charged with embezzlement when he was caught stealing from a casino to fund his own gambling habit. Her 70-year-old mother had to go back to work to pay off the Chapter 13 bankruptcy judgment created by her gambling addiction. Her brother, a licensed counselor who manned gambling and suicide hotlines, ended his gambling addiction and his life while sitting at his father's grave with a shotgun in his mouth (*Faith & Family Impact*). Do you think Ms. Barrett would call gambling just "entertainment?"

When an "industry" causes addiction, increases bankruptcy, crime, and suicide it is difficult for me to call it entertainment. It saddens me to read our state newspapers and to listen to the many in our state government who praise casinos and gambling as the cure for our financial needs.

Gambling has and always will be with us in some form, whether it is deemed legal or illegal. Therefore, it becomes our responsibility to teach our children and family members the dangers of gambling. **Sunday, September 17, is designated Anti-Gambling Sunday** throughout the Southern Baptist Convention, and it could be a great time to present the facts.

It is not entertainment but an entanglement that ruins lives!

Porter is Executive Director/ Treasurer of the Mississippi Baptist Christian Action Commission.

9/11 victim's memory lives on in Baptist work

AMHERST, Mass. (BP) — While only a few students remain who were attending the University of Massachusetts at Amherst at the same time as Jessica Sachs, her legacy includes a Southern Baptist presence in this college town.

A total of \$50,000 in donations in the 9/11 victim's memory enabled Mercyhouse to make the down payment on the college-oriented church's home, pastor Robert Krumrey said.

The congregation purchased a building owned by Wesley United Methodist Church, which has continued holding an early Sunday service there but moved to a new home on September 10.

"We may continue to get money," Krumrey said of the gifts that have come from across the nation. "I haven't seen a donation in about six months, but with the anniversary coming up, you never know."

Sachs was a 2000 graduate who was working at PricewaterhouseCoopers when hijackers crashed her flight into the World Trade Center on September 11, 2001. Only 23 years old, she was a key leader in the formation of the first Southern Baptist Convention ministry near the Amherst campus.

Krumrey said Sachs eagerly was awaiting his arrival and original co-leader Joe Green's in 1999. The church, which averages 150 in Sunday attendance, started with 25 students that summer.

"When we came she was ready," Krumrey said. "She had been waiting for a couple years for something to happen. She was ready to roll up her sleeves and help."

Although many new students aren't attuned to Sachs' influence, the pastor said Mercyhouse will have a brief time of remembrance for her during its Sept. 10 service, when it prays for the victims' families and the nation.

Her memory also lives on in Krumrey's mind. His favorite comes from the church's first baptismal service at First Church (American Baptist) in Amherst in December 1999.

"There was a small group gathered at the baptistery," Krumrey recalled. "I remember her standing in the choir loft singing her heart out, so happy, with her eyes closed, like there was nobody in the room but her and God. That's what I remember about Jessica."

Sachs' home church, New Colony Church of Bellerica, Mass., also will remem-



Sachs

ber her on September 10. Pastor Phil Wilkes said the church always marks the occasion on the Sunday nearest the anniversary.

"It's something we take into account every September," said Wilkes, New Colony Church's pastor since August 2003. "We take time in worship to remember what happened and pray for the victims' families."

For those who wish to meditate at other times, New Colony Church erected an outdoor prayer garden near the sanctuary to honor Sachs and the other hijacking victims.

Although former pastor Jack Parrott, now a bivocational pastor in Florida, conducted Sachs' memorial service the week after her death, Wilkes said he learned about her during his first month as pastor.

Two stoves in the church kitchen were donated by her parents, Steve and Karen Sachs, with a plaque noting they were given in her memory. (Before the family moved to St. Louis to be closer to their son in June 2003, Karen Sachs served as church secretary.)

"I asked about the sign and heard the story," said Wilkes, who previously pastored First Church in Forest Park, Ga. "I know she was well loved in the church.... What I have heard and seen from [members] is Jessica loved the Lord and enjoyed life."

Angie Harrington, longtime minister of music at the Boston-area church, said many new people have joined over the past five

years and there aren't as many left with personal connections to Sachses.

Still, Sachs left a legacy of courage and inspiration, particularly for young people, Harrington said.

Noting that her son is 12 years old, Harrington said she and her husband tried to shield him from much of the news in 2001. However, they now discuss Sachs openly.

The tragedy is much more real for children in the church than in other areas where they don't have a personal connection to 9/11, Harrington said.

"I think they respect and remember her more for who she was than they talk of her as being a heroine," Harrington said. "She was just Jessica and she died in a tragedy."

"I remember her as someone who loved her family very much," Harrington added. "I feel a great deal of sorrow and loss. When I see a young woman who is married or is having a baby, I think what it would be like now for her."

Sachs is fondly remembered by another former New Colony Church member: John Ramirez, leader of collegiate ministries for the Baptist Convention of New England (BCNE) who attended the church from 1996-99.

"My enduring memory of Jessica is she had one of the biggest smiles of anyone I've ever known," Ramirez told Baptist Press. "That's what opened doors for Jessica — she immediately disarmed people. That's a big gift in an area where people are skeptical of evangelicals."

Even before she transferred to Amherst, Sachs was a vital participant in a UMass branch at Lowell, Ramirez said.

Her inquiries about starting a Southern Baptist ministry in Amherst helped spark plans for what became Mercyhouse, he said.

Having a student on a particular campus opens the door, Ramirez said. With more colleges and universities (278) than convention churches (230) in New England, resources are always limited, he explained.

"It was very much a coming together of things," Ramirez said. "Jessica said, 'I'm moving to Amherst, what do we have going there?' And we said, 'Nothing. How can you help us?'

"She could have easily become involved in Campus Crusade for Christ, InterVarsity Fellowship or Navigators, but she wanted to see a Baptist collegiate ministry started there."